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HCR 386

AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
DEVELOP THROUGH A PRIVATE DEVELOPER CERTAIN FAST,
TIDAL, AND SUBMERGED LANDS AT KEEHI LAGOON,
HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAII FOR COMMERCIAL,
RECREATIONAL, AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

Statement for
House Committees on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Transportation
Public Hearing - April 14, 1988

By
John Harrison, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant

HCR 386 would authorize the Department of Transportation to lease and provide for the reclamation and development by private developers, of fast, tidal, and submerged lands in the central triangular section of Keehi Lagoon.

Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Plans for this industrial development of Keehi Lagoon have been promulgated since the early 1970's. As proposed, the development would have significant environmental impacts with regard to:

- 1) endangered water bird habitats;
- 2) the 3rd largest bait fish (nehu) spawning grounds on Oahu;
- 3) feeding and resting areas for migratory water fowl;
- 4) traffic congestion to adjacent areas and access routes;
- 5) noise and safety considerations with siting between airport runways; and
- 6) existing federal/state agreements (April 13, 1972) regarding maintenance of the area as a State Wildlife Area.

We urge that: 1) leasing of the lands be deferred until an Environmental Assessment is prepared pursuant to HRS 343 to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project; 2) the Environmental Impact Statement, if required, is accepted; and 3) the environmental ramifications of the Keehi Lagoon project are reviewed by the Office of State Planning, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation in the context of an evaluation of the overall development of the waterfront areas.
